

Software Underground

Board Meeting

28 May 2024

Minutes are recorded in green.

Agenda

We will start at 16.00 UTC on Tuesday 28 May 2024. Quorum is 5.

Chair: Santi

Regrets: Matt

Present: Sissi, Jo, Dieter, Matteo, Leo

Visiting:

Previous meeting

Previous meeting minutes are on GitHub:

<https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/blob/main/board>

Remarks

- None

AGM!

During the last meeting we decided to set a date aiming for the end of May, early June. We should push efforts into scheduling a new date soon. **When?** Is the financial statement ready?

Matt can share the skeleton with the slides so the board can work on it.

Circulate possible dates in Mattermost!

Remarks:

- Matteo received the credit card and the PIN number. He's responsible for that now.

- Need to check with the accountants. After we get the financial statement, Matteo and Matt will check the document.
- Possible dates:
 - June 25 (coincide with the board meeting)
 - Set the date for June 25 (at 15:00 UTC, see section about changing meeting times below).
- We need the financial statement. Matteo followed up with an email today.

Tasks:

- Prepare slides for the AGM.
- Receive the financial statement.
- Announce the date in Mattermost (Santi)

Conversation about non-profit and fiscal hosts

In the last meeting we've been considering moving away from a non-profit considering that the benefits we get don't match the effort we need to put into its societal duties. Leo prompted the idea to have a fiscal host.

Any advances/research/ideas on this?

Remarks:

- <https://docs.opencollective.com/help/fiscal-hosts/fiscal-hosts#what-are-some-examples-of-fiscal-hosts>
- <https://opencollective.com/opensource>
- <https://gdal.org/sponsors/faq.html#what-is-numfocus-and-why-is-the-project-using-that-foundation-rather-than-using-osgeo-for-this-effort> - some context, an individual OSGeo project using NumFocus as a sort of fiscal host
- Would be nice to have a Pro and Cons for making a decision.
- Main advantage: less effort with the societal duties.
- Worries about the non profit: we require a person in Canada to keep swung running.
- Possible risk: with the fiscal host, we would rely on their existence.
- Bring this topic to the AGM so the swung community can start talking about it.
- Keep this topic on the backburner.

Finances and sponsoring

From the parking lot for the last meeting:

- Take a look at the donations page, see how people are donating to swung.
- Discussions about having sponsors for the whole organization (instead of sponsors for particular events). They could cover the minimum expenses of swung, so we can use donations and other sponsorship for other activities.

Remarks:

- **Donations information should be available through squarespace**
- **Corporate sponsors would need a programme of activity / mission outline**
- **The website lists supporters for 2022, we should update it.**
- **We need a Store tutorial from Matt. Take some of the tasks from Matt's plate.**
 - **Schedule a meeting with Matt. We don't need to wait for the next board meeting for this.**
- **Nothing new on the sponsors' side.**

Committees

During the meeting of 2024-03-19 we agreed to form committees to oversee aspects of SwUng.

We could probably assign board members to invite community members to join them:

- Finance: *Matteo & Matt*
- Tech (website and other tech things): *Santi*
- Store:
- Community: *Leo, Matt, Chance*
- Events: *Jo*

Discuss the idea of assigning tasks to board members/committees during each board meeting, so we can leverage the momentum that board meetings generate. Mainly through volunteering. Keep realistic expectations of what committees can achieve.

Remarks:

- **It seems that nothing happens between board meetings.**
- **Assigning tasks during the meeting would be nice.**
- **At the moment we are tackling maintenance tasks. We don't have major goals.**
- **What goals each committee should have?**
- **Great topic for the AGM. What is Swung's value? What would we lose if Swung ceased to exist? What are the mission and values of swung (specially after pandemic)?**

Tasks:

- **Start conversation about Swung mission and values to the AGM.**

Events

Any updates on forming the committee to organize the next Transform?

Remarks:

- Discussion which began in the item above
- Preference to do something live, even as a plug-in to another event
- Action to start a discussion on the Events channel of where Swung members are planning to gather anyway, where an interest group / BoF session / hackathon / lightning talks could run
- There is wider interest in a TRANSFORM this year (are we hoping to plan one?)
- <https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/issues/10> - started an intro issue here
- Is there room for video tutorials? They have thousands of views. People value them a lot (even if others value blog posts more).
- We had a lot of discussions the last few years about the format for Transform. We need a group to take the lead.
- TRANSFORM? Channel in the Mattermost

Tasks:

- **Start the conversation in the rest of the community (Jo -as she added her name to the Events committee).**

Board meeting times

Should we move the board meetings to 15:00 UTC (at least until Europe leaves DST)?

Remarks:

- Let's make the change.
- Set the AGM to 15:00 UTC then.

Tasks:

- **Update the calendar (Santi)**
- **Announce the change in time (Santi).**

Volunteer for chairing the next meeting

Who will chair the AGM?

Remarks:

- Matteo will meet Matt and we can see who can volunteer for chairing it.

Parking lot / next meeting

None.

Tasks:

- Upload these meeting notes to GitHub repo (Santi)